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Scratchcard Lottery winner

JANUARY

By Michael Cox

Southend@yellowad.co.uk

A MULTIMILLION pound spending programme promised to boost Southend's tourist trade.

Despite a funding shortfall from central government, Southend Council told the *YA* it was crucial that it ploughed on with projects to increase visitors. Among projects being funded was a £2million makeover for Southend Pier, and £1.5m on stabilising the Belton Hill steps which lead down to old Leigh.

ROCHFORD carer Susan Richards, 49, who scooped £3m in a scratchcard lottery, believed fate had a hand in her



CELEBRATION: Lottery winner Susan Richards with partner Barry Maddox
Photo by Martin Dalton

win. She had just finished a night shift and was in two minds whether to go straight home, or stop off at her local store.

Susan said: "Well, I went in. Then I wasn't going to treat myself to a scratchcard but when I put my hand in my pocket I pulled out the exact change, four £2, one £1 and 50p and a 10p."

She took the £250million Cash Spectacular scratch card from National Lottery GameStore back to the car with

her shopping, and decided to play the card before she went home.

A COLLECTION of valuable artworks from Basildon was on display in Southend. The Foundation for Essex Arts displayed the Basildon Arts Trust Collection at the Beecroft Art Gallery, Victoria Avenue.

The collection had an estimated value of between £70,000 and £100,000.

A launch event on Friday, January 15, was attended by artists and patrons.

YA sparks police probe

MARCH

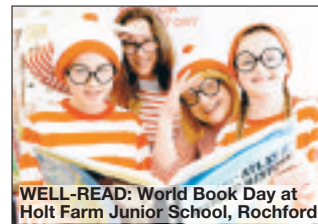
A 17-MONTH investigation by the *YA* into alleged historic abuse in Essex culminated in the announcement of a police operation to reinvestigate an early 1990s Shoeburyness "paedophile ring". Police and Crime Commissioner Nick Alston described information supplied by three whistleblowers as "overwhelmingly credible".

SOUTHEND Council announced proposals to demolish four tower blocks.

Chiltern, Malvern, Pennine, all in Coleman Street, and Quantock flats, in Chichester Road, were listed as too expensive for refurbishment.

MORE than 800 children from Essex took part in the Active Essex Spring School Games.

The two-day event at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, Garon Park, saw youngsters compete in athletics,



WELL-READ: World Book Day at Holt Farm Junior School, Rochford

rugby, tennis and volleyball. The county-wide competition was organised by Active Essex, run by Essex Council.

STAFF and pupils celebrated World Book Day at Rochford's Holt Farm Junior School by dressing as a favourite hero or villain.

The day was organised to encourage the youngsters to read as well as dress up – they all brought in books and every time a bell rang they had to sit down, stop whatever they were doing, and read for five minutes.

VOLLEYBALL: Essex schools sports day at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, Garon Park



Green light for tram shelter revamp

FEBRUARY

WORK was underway on Thorpe Bay's former tram shelter to transform the 100-year-old seafront building into a space for community use.

Retired police chief Bob Craven and his wife Dorothy had been trying to revamp the dilapidated art deco shelter for the last 20 years.

They were given the go-ahead by Southend Council and backed by the *YA* last year.

A WEEKLY club was set up in Southend for war veterans. SSAFA Southend Veterans' Club opened at the Royal Naval Association.

Founder Michele Everett, SSAFA Southend division secretary, said: "SSAFA promises lifelong support to our veterans and their families and wants to fulfil this promise locally.

"By creating the club, we have provided a regular opportunity for our veterans to shoot the breeze, share experiences, play some music and create and nurture friendships that can last a lifetime. It offers them something to look forward to every week."



BRIGHT FUTURE: Members of the Tram Shelter group and the builders at the site of the now demolished tram shelter on the seafront at Thorpe Bay

THE FORUM, Southend's library and learning hub, was opened by HRH the Duke of Kent. He unveiled a statue of the Queen, by Essex-born painter and sculptor John Doubleday, commissioned to celebrate her 90th birthday.

The Duke met borough dignitaries and Year 3 youngsters from Thorpedene School before he toured the Southend town centre building, including the Focal Point Gallery.

Southend Council, University of Essex and South Essex College pooled resources to provide the country's first integrated public, university and college library designed for the internet age.

A PRODUCTION of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat was held at The FitzWimarc School and delighted audiences.

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APRIL

BARBER Simon Foxen won the community "Oscar" at the Castle Point Mayor's Business Awards for raising thousands of pounds for Havens Hospices and local schools.

The award was one of several made by then mayor Andrew Sheldon.

Amanda Bubb, of Blu Nuvo, scooped the Young Entrepreneur Award for her successful hair and beauty salon start-up in Benfleet.



TOP: Simon Foxen and Amanda Bubb

JUNIOR doctors at Southend Hospital walked out of routine and emergency care on April 26 and April 27 in a dispute with the Government over a new contract.

THE WIVES Club at St James the Less Church, Hadleigh, celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday with a flower festival with displays illustrating events in her life such as her time in the ATS as a mechanic during the war.

MAY

THE TORIES retained a majority on Southend Council at the local elections. The party gained two seats but it was not enough to secure overall control. Conservatives stayed in control at Castle Point Council taking all eight

The YA is 40 yrs old

seats they held, while Canvey Island Independent Party (CIIP) retained its five. The Tory majority fell from 12 to three in Rochford Council elections.

CANVEY Island Town Council elected its first mayor, Cllr Martin Tucker.

He said: "My father was last mayor of Poplar before it became Tower Hamlets and I am the first mayor of Canvey. This link gives me a lot of pleasure."

CHICKEN runs were set up in two residential homes, Nazareth House and St Martins, Southend, after national charity Equal Arts discovered

keeping hens increased the wellbeing of elderly people.



CAKE: YA staff celebrate

THE YA celebrated its 40th birthday and redesigned the paper to mark the milestone.

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Children's centre safe and honour for Joyce

JUNE

COUNTY Hall bowed to public pressure over its plan to close a Canvey Island children's centre, after one of its own senior members joined a campaign to save it.

Cllr Ray Howard said he was delighted that the "much-needed" Little Lions centre would stay open.

Essex County Council planned to close the centre as part of a cost-cutting proposal which would have seen its number of children's centres axed from 37 to 12. After public consultation and a lobbying campaign backed by Cllr Howard, who serves as County Hall's deputy cabinet member for transport and parking, the council agreed to save the centre.

FUNDRAISER Joyce Long was given a posthumous lifetime achievement award by the hospital she collected more than £1.5million for.

Southend Hospital also named the award in her



PARADE: Crowds mingle with ex-service veterans in Canvey

Photo by Steve O'Connell

memory – it will be called the Joyce Long Fundraising Achievement Award.

"We are doing this in memory of Joyce's incredible legacy," said Sue Hardy, hospital CEO.

Joyce's daughter Angela Alden received the award on behalf of her mother, who died last December, at the third annual volunteer achievement awards.

A CROWD of hundreds lined the streets of Canvey to cheer on this year's Armed Forces Day parade, which included three bands each leading a section of the march.

THE REFURBISHED Southend police station re-opened.

The building in Victoria Avenue had been closed for almost a year for an extensive makeover.

Internal work at the station saw the old offices gutted in favour of a new open plan layout.



FUNDRAISER: Joyce Long MBE

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Tributes to 'real character' Jack



Jack King

JULY

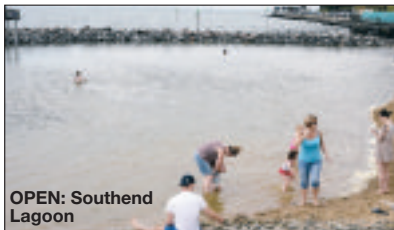
CHILDREN'S services in Southend were rated as "require improvement to be good" by Ofsted inspectors.

Two of the five graded areas controlled by the council were rated "good". Adoption services, progress of those leaving care into adulthood and its approach to tackling child sexual exploitation were praised.

James Courtenay, executive councillor for children and learning, vowed to work hard to make sure all children's services were brought up to the required standards.

TRIBUTES were paid to Canvey businessman Jack King, who died on Wednesday, July 13, aged 93.

Ex-councillor Mr King was best known as the



OPEN: Southend Lagoon



SHOW: Wyburns Primary School

former owner of King's Caravan Park.

He went on to run the Thorney Bay Caravan Park before later handing control to his son Jeff.

Canvey councillor Ray Howard said: "The island has lost a special person who was very well liked, especially by the elderly. He was a real character and will be sorely missed."

THE LAGOON on Southend seafront opened at Three Shells Beach after a £1.8million project.

More than 14,000 cubic tonnes of granite rock mark out the new football pitch-sized lagoon.

PUPILS at a school in Rayleigh performed a summer production.

Youngsters from Years 5 and 6 at Wyburns Primary School, Rayleigh, acted and sang their way through The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan.



JETTY: The RSPB objected to Oikos' plan



BUSY BEES: YA staff at Southend Carnival

RSPB's concern over jetty impact on wading birds

AUGUST

THE NHS trust that runs Southend Hospital has been rated as "requires improvement" following an inspection of its services.

Inspectors from the Care Quality Commission visited in January to inspect the core services run by Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

NATIONAL charity RSPB said it objected to plans for a new deep water jetty on Canvey due to Oikos' failure to assess its impact on globally and internationally important numbers of wading birds.

Castle Point Council approved Oikos' plans earlier in the month, which included the demolition and replacement of 12 storage tanks.

The jetty will be able to accommodate vessels up to and including 120,000 deadweight tonnage tankers. An Oikos spokesman said that it conducted full environmental assessments based on the maximum number of birds that could potentially use the Special Protection Areas and that the timing of construction activity was planned according to that information.

THOUSANDS of people lined Southend seafront to celebrate the annual carnival.

Yellow Advertiser staff joined in the parade, which started in Southchurch Park and ran all the way along to The Arches at Shorefield Road, on Saturday, August 20.

YA staff dressed up as bumblebees, with T-shirts printed by Ilford company Digipix, to raise money for Southend YMCA.



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Cash boost for Age Concern befrienders

AGE CONCERN: Lin Boulter and Keith Davies



SEPTEMBER

BEFRIENDING services were to be extended across Castle Point and Rochford following a funding pledge by Essex County Council.

Age Concern Southend in Westcliff was given almost £21,000 to run services across the areas while The Royal Association of Deaf People, working in partnership with Support 4 Sight and Hearing Loss, were given more than £11,500 to support people in Castle Point and Rochford.

TRADING Standards officers warned that traders selling bootlegged and counterfeit cigarettes in Southend could face up to ten years in prison and/or an unlimited fine.

The warning came ahead of an awareness raising campaign being led by Southend Council.

YARNBOMBS: Post boxes in Leigh



A GP surgery in Benfleet was rated as good by inspectors – less than a year after it was placed into special measures.

Benfleet Surgery, in Constitution Hill, was inspected by the Care Quality Commission in June and its findings were published on Thursday, September 1.

Professor Steve Field, the health regulator's chief inspector of general practice, said that the surgery had made "significant progress" since the previous inspection in September 2015.

THE Craft Club Yarnbombers commemorated the 100th birthday of author Roald Dahl by creating yarnbombs of his characters such as Matilda and Alfie Tortoise from Esio Trot.

They were placed on top of post boxes in Leigh and Chalkwell, including outside the respective train stations and on Leigh Broadway.



ANGER: Fay Barwell, Robert Byford and Dave Flynn from shops in Eastwood Old Road adjacent to The Fairway



ON TRACK: Cllr Ann Holland in the driver's seat of a Southend Pier train

Traders unhappy signs 'divert traffic away from their shops'

OCTOBER

TRADERS in Leigh expressed dismay at the location of signage during gas main works that they claimed wrongly diverted traffic away from their shops.

The works were on The Fairway, with phase two seeing the road closed from Moor Park Gardens towards the A127. But traders on Eastwood Old Road had to put out their own banners and posters to direct customers to their businesses.

A National Grid spokesman said that it was mindful of businesses who may have been affected by the work and apologised for any inconvenience. Southend Council said it agreed a strategy with National Grid for the final phase to ensure not too much traffic was routed towards two-way lights that were placed on The Fairway.

THE Deanes School in Thundersley announced that it had converted to academy status.

The school, now known as The Deanes, became part of the Challenger Multi-Academy Trust on October 1. It had been seeking to become an academy for the previous year to 18 months after a proposal by Essex County Council to close it failed in 2014 following a campaign to save it.

Then acting headteacher Desi McKeown, subsequently appointed to the role on a permanent basis, said that the move had secured the school's future.

THE train that runs on Southend Pier came back on line after it had been out of action for more than three months.

It had been shut down to allow pile cap repairs to take place.

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2016 ROUND-UP

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Overhaul to A&E service

NOVEMBER



L-R: Dr Sarah Henshall, Buglife, Natalie Holt, RSPB, Simon Pile, The Land Trust and Neil Fuller, Natural England

Photo by Martin Dalton

IT was revealed that Southend Hospital's A&E department could stop catering for some emergencies as part of an Essex-wide overhaul of the service.

The Mid and South Essex Success Regime published its "sustainability and transformation plan", outlining the future of healthcare in mid and south Essex in five years' time and included the aim of designating one specialist emergency hospital for the area.

A spokesman for the Success Regime, made up of service providers, clinical commissioning groups and local authorities from across the county, said that the area's three main hospitals at Basildon, Chelmsford and Southend, could "work better as a group".

PLANS for the expansion of Canvey Wick Nature Reserve were announced.

The RSPB and Buglife revealed that they would be working alongside the Land Trust to increase the size of the nature reserve to five times its existing size.

The nature reserve was once home to an oil refinery but is now owned by the Land Trust and managed in partnership with the RSPB and Buglife.

DECEMBER

SOUTHEND Hospital was to undertake a "thorough" review of its safety systems following a diesel leak that saw fuel go into the Prittle Brook.

Southend University Hospital NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, confirmed that fuel had gone into the brook during the leak on Tuesday, December 13.

A trust spokesman said the leak came from a 1,000-litre fuel tank linked to its heating system.

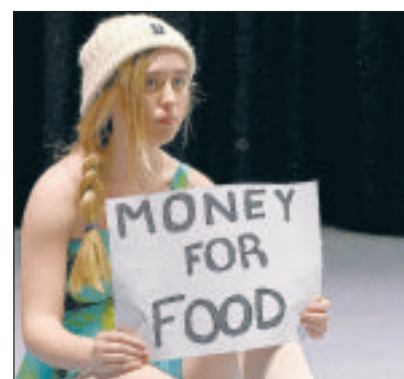
The maternity unit and two other ward areas were evacuated as a precaution after fumes affected some areas of the hospital, and patients and visitors were asked not to attend the hospital during the incident.

Affected ward areas were reopened at 2pm on Wednesday, December 14.

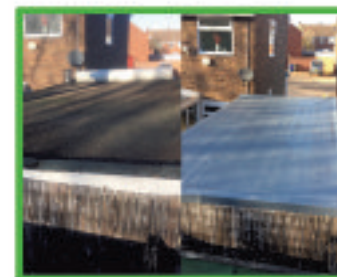
STUDENTS at The Deanes in Thundersley performed a Christmas show.

The performance, called All Wrapped Up, took place on Friday, December 16.

More than 60 students were involved in performing drama and dance pieces, with support from the school choir and band.



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The menu, which introduces diners to the Cypriot way of eating,

starts with tasty dips and pitta bread, and is followed by cold starters and fish dishes, Cypriot wine sausages, smoked loin of pork and grilled goat's milk cheese.

Then it's onto the meats, and even Kleftico and Stifado for those looking for more.

To finish you are given a taste of Greek Pastries and an array of fresh fruits.

The Akropolis Meze, available for two or more people, is ideal for

parties as the menu is meant to be lingered over.

There is also a Kleftico Feast, including traditional dips and pitta bread, Kleftico, Greek Pastries and a platter of fresh fruits, for £18.95 per person.

The mouth-watering food is not the only Akropolis attraction – the restaurant also produces a good line in live music on most days through the week.

The restaurant, which can comfortably seat up to 60 people and has a well-stocked, fully licensed bar, can cater for everything from a quiet meal for two to birthday celebrations.

With its experienced chefs



and friendly, helpful staff, Akropolis offers a top quality, value-for-money evening out.

Akropolis, which can also satisfy any special dietary needs and offer children-friendly dishes, is open seven days a week, from 5pm to midnight from Monday to Thursday, from 5pm to 1am on Friday and Saturday, and from noon to midnight on Sunday.

The Akropolis is located at 120 Station Road, Westcliff, and ample parking is available just 50 yards away, by the Cliffs Pavilion.

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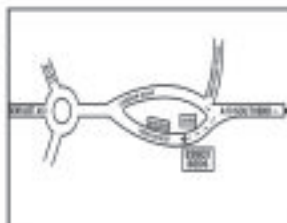
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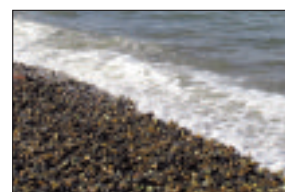
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Musical tribute to the Moody Blues

LEGEND of a Band – featuring the music of the Moody Blues performed by legendary musicians, singers and songwriters including the band's drummer for 25 years – will be at Palace Theatre, Southend, on Saturday, January 28, and we have TWO pairs of tickets to give away.

Drummer Gordy Marshall is joined by current 10cc lead singer Mick Wilson; Leona Lewis and Westlife guitarist Tim Maple; James Blunt and Joss Stone bass player Malcolm Moore; flautist/singer/saxophonist/keyboard player, Lindsay Goodhand; Strictly Come Dancing vocalist Patrick Smyth; and musician and songwriter Patrick Duffin, composer of the Loose Women theme tune no less. Experience impeccable performances of classic hits

Mick Wilson**Legend of a Band features the music of the Moody Blues**

including Nights in White Satin, Go Now, Tuesday Afternoon, Legend of a Mind (Timothy Leary's Dead), I Know You're Out There Somewhere, Question, Isn't Life Strange, plus Justin Hayward's Forever Autumn and a show-stealing rendition of Eve of the War from Jeff Wayne's War of the Worlds.

The evening promises to be an intriguing insight into the kings of the concept album – the Moody Blues – so join them and relive classic, million-selling albums Days of Future Passed, In Search of the Lost Chord, On the Threshold of a Dream, To Our Children's Children and more.

For further information and tickets visit southendtheatres.org.uk or call the box office on 01702 351135.

To win one of two pairs of tickets to see the show at 8pm on Saturday, January 28, answer this question.

Q: The Moody Blues are best known for their hit single:

A: Nights in White Satin
B: Nights in White Polyester

C: Nights in Black Latex

To enter the competition telephone your answer – A, B or C – to 0901 307 1669 along with your name, address, telephone number and email.

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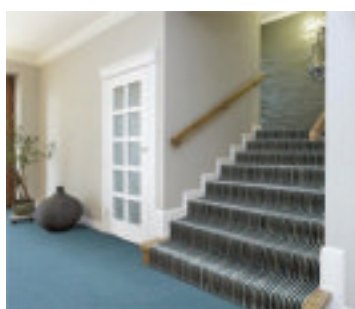
Lines close on Thursday, January 5. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

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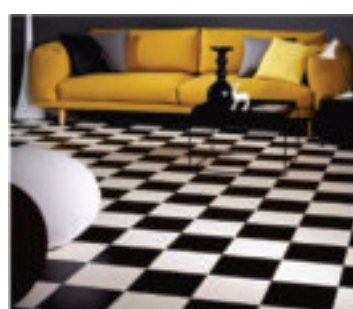
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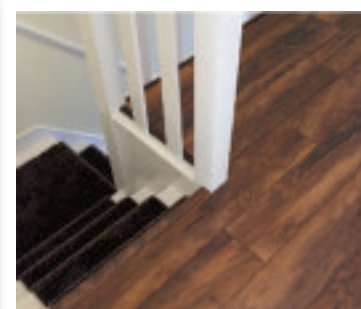
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Round Britain & Amsterdam



Astoria departs Tilbury:
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Tilbury - Amsterdam (Netherlands) - Kirkwall (Orkney Islands) - Stornoway (Outer Hebrides) - Tobermory (Isle of Mull) - St Mary's (Isles of Scilly) - St Peter Port (Guernsey) - Honfleur (France) - Tilbury.

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Astoria departs Tilbury:
Tuesday, 18th April 2017, 8 nights
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Twin Inner from	Full Fare £1119	Saver Fare £659	Twin Ocean View from	Full Fare £1559	Saver Fare £919
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Amsterdam & Antwerp Weekend



Magellan departs Tilbury:
Friday, 5th May 2017, 3 nights
Tilbury - Amsterdam (Netherlands) - Antwerp (Belgium) - Tilbury.

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Medieval Cities & River Seine Experience



Magellan departs Tilbury:
Sunday, 28th May 2017, 8 nights
Tilbury - Antwerp (Belgium) - cruising River Scheldt - cruising River Seine - Rouen (France) - Le Havre (France) - Newport. Includes coach transfer Newport to Tilbury.

Twin Inner from	Full Fare £689	Saver Fare £399	Twin Ocean View from	Full Fare £919	Saver Fare £539
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Spain, Portugal & France



Columbus departs Tilbury:
Monday, 2nd October 2017, 12 nights
Tilbury - Amsterdam (Netherlands) - La Pallice for La Rochelle (France) - Getxo for Bilbao (Spain) - Lisbon (Portugal) - Gibraltar - La Coruña (Spain) - Tilbury.

Twin Inner from	Full Fare £1659	Saver Fare £919	Twin Ocean View from	Full Fare £1979	Saver Fare £1159
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Canary Islands & Madeira



Columbus departs Tilbury:
Saturday, 14th October 2017, 15 nights
Tilbury - Amsterdam (Netherlands) - Gibraltar - Las Palmas (Gran Canaria) - Arrecife (Lanzarote) - Santa Cruz (Tenerife) - Funchal (Madeira) - Lisbon (Portugal) - Tilbury.

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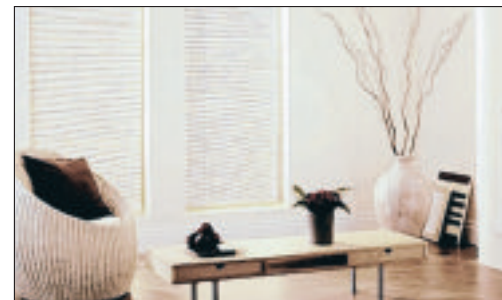
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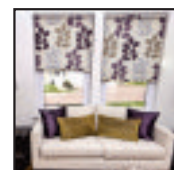
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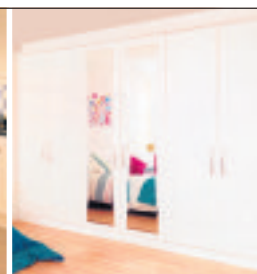
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7.00am – 6.00pmFriday 30th December
8.30am – 6.00pmSaturday 31st December
8.30am – 4.30pm

Sunday 1st January – CLOSED

Monday 2nd January – CLOSED

Tuesday 3rd January 7.00am – 6.00pm

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8.30am – 6.00pmFriday 30th December
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Sunday 1st January – CLOSED

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Tuesday 3rd January 8.30am – 6.00pm

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8.30am – 6.00pmThursday 29th December
8.30am – 6.00pmFriday 30th December
8.30am – 6.00pmSaturday 31st December
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Sunday 1st January – CLOSED

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